

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) An airborne reconnaissance system comprising:

an airborne vehicle having a fuselage and wings adapted to be removed from the fuselage, the airborne vehicle including an onboard video camera and video signal transmitter and a flight control system to remotely control a flight of the airborne vehicle from a remote location;

a launch system including a launch rail having a longitudinal axis comprised of at least two sections including connector means for connecting the at least two sections;

a carriage for slidable receipt onto the launch rail member, the carriage engaging the fuselage of the airborne vehicle;

and

a container adapted to receive therein the airborne vehicle with the wings removed from the fuselage and the launch rail thereof.
2. (original) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 1, wherein the container is backpackable and includes straps.
3. (original) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 1, wherein the container is weatherproof.
4. (original) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 1, wherein the container defines an interior and the interior includes foam.
5. (original) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 1, wherein the container further includes a pivoting lid.
6. (original) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 1, wherein the launch rail member is rectangular in cross-section.
7. (original) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 1, wherein the launch system includes a gas propellant.
8. (original) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 1, wherein the launch system includes at least one elastic cord.

9. (original) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 8, wherein the launch system further includes legs for supporting the launch rail member with respect to a support surface.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Previously Amended) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 1, wherein the launch system includes a trigger for releasably engaging the carriage to the launch rail member.
12. (original) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 8, wherein the launch rail member includes at least one pulley.
13. (original) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 8, wherein the wings of the airborne vehicle define a biplane.
14. (original) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 13, wherein the wings further include endplates.
15. (original) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 8, wherein the airborne vehicle further includes a global positioning system unit and an antenna for transmitting global positioning system unit signals to a remote location.
16. (Previously Amended) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 1, wherein the airborne vehicle further includes a parachute and a storage container adapted to at least partially enclose the parachute and capable of being received into the fuselage thereof.
17. (original) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 1, further including a pan and tilt mechanism wherein the camera of the airborne vehicle is mounted on the pan and tilt mechanism.
18. (original) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 8, wherein the fuselage and the wings of the airborne vehicle are at least partly constructed from one or more of the following: carbon fiber, titanium, stainless steel, aluminum, or balsa wood.
19. (original) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 1, wherein the airborne vehicle includes an engine and the engine has a generator engaged therewith for generating electricity.

20. (Previously Amended) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 1, wherein the airborne vehicle includes an engine and the engine is adapted to run on a mixture of gas and oil.
21. (Previously Amended) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 1, wherein the launch rail member includes means to absorb the acceleration energy of the carriage as the carriage reaches the end of the launch rail member.
22. (Previously Amended) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 1, further including shear pins for engaging the fuselage of the airborne vehicle to the carriage.
23. (original) The airborne reconnaissance system of Claim 1, wherein the launch rail member includes at least two sections hinged together.
24. (Previously Amended) An airborne reconnaissance system comprising:
 - an airborne vehicle with no landing gear, the vehicle adapted to be disassembled, the vehicle having a fuselage and wings adapted to be removed from the fuselage;
 - said airborne vehicle including an onboard video camera and video signal transmitter and a flight control system to remotely control a flight of the airborne vehicle from a remote location;
 - said airborne vehicle including a parachute and adapted to be received into the fuselage thereof;
 - a launch system including a launch rail having a longitudinal axis comprised of at least two sections including a connector for connecting the at least two sections, said launch system adapted to be disassembled;
 - the launch system including a carriage for slideable receipt onto the launch rail member, the carriage engaging the fuselage of the airborne vehicle;
 - shear pins for engaging the airborne vehicle to the carriage; and
 - a container adapted to be received thereinto of the airborne vehicle, with the wings removed from the fuselage, and the launch rail thereof.